

Code Lyoko : the Golden sun levels by **moonlake**

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Summary:

After what seems to be the end of their adventures, Jeremie and Aelita seems to be slightly at Odds. However, a new journey lies ahead, as soon as it appears that clearing the alchemy of Aelita's link with Xana involves going to the four corners of another virtual world.

(Mostly not compatible with Code Lyoko Evolution)

1. How it all started anew

Author's Note:

For Code Lyoko fans who never heard of Golden Sun :
you should be fine understanding this fanfic

For French native readers :

It's in English but you should do fine. I will try to keep it simple English.

For Golden Sun fans that never heard of Code Lyoko :
This fic is a mild spoiler for the Code Lyoko cartoon ending.
(as it's more or less a continuation fic for it...)

So If you plan on watching the cartoon without being spoiled in any way before...
You may want to wait before virtualising into this story.

Having a vague idea of the ending might not decrease too much your enjoyment of the cartoon.

Knowing all of the cartoon's story is not actually *required*
(but, it's a big plus-value for enjoying the full scope of the story)

Indeed, at the end of this first chapter we go through a fast forward...
leading up to shortly before a retelling of the end of Golden sun 1,
in order to make the fic a "The lost age" remix with Code Lyoko characters and background...
(So, if you know nothing about Lyoko, you can still enjoy the *extensive* retelling)

Code Lyoko spoilers start swarming after this cut.

So, no more dancing around spoilers...

Here is my new fanfic about Golden Sun, but also Code Lyoko.

Curious Code Lyoko Fan : Why have you thought about this mash-up ?

Well I didn't like the ending of the animated series (you know, before they made evolution)

So I have thought of a lot of alternate/expanded ending so that :

- Franz hopper isn't fully dead/disintegrated
- XANA get a redemption
- Aelita/Jeremie and Ulrich/Yumi is a thing...

I also globally don't like their sense of strategy... :

- Jeremie never going into lyoko...
(Even if quickly sent back, he could help some and have a clearer view of the battlefield)
- Them not trusting anybody : They could have recruited Jim or Sisi or even her sidekicks.
You see, by doing this, they would have more war power with them!
And, with these ones knowing, coping with real life attack from lyoko would be simpler...
Even if they don't go 3D! (If they really needed to save budget on that...)

So, below is my wish fulfillment story for Code Lyoko.

After the event in the final episode (ending with F.H. disintegrated or so it seems...)

Aelita have gone to Lyoko alone, after receiving a message from her father, telling her he is ok, because Xana and him have found a safe refuge.

They are in a strange flat world, eroding, in the numerical sea.

So they have left a teleporter for her in the mountain's territory.

Aelita have joined her dad who stand near a light blue hair man/woman?

They are in some kind of small village, with calm people.

(For any Golden sun reader : This is a copy of Vale, in GS)

Yes, for now, Aelita will be the pseudo Jenna of the story...

"What is this place?" opened Aelita.

[strange person] : It's the Valley village, at the bottom of the 'solar sanctuary'

[F.H.] : We are here to restore the data generator, inside.

[Aelita] : You said my mother is there, is that right?

[strange p.] : She is in here, in me, XANA. 'XANA' have build around your mum...

[Aelita] : Why not release her?

[XANA] : 'cause I can't, as long as I can't live by myself."

F.H. explained how his wife was virtualised and how she fused with XANA...

Aelita transition card

Jeremie waked up, a little sweaty, after the nightmare :

He was shouting : "die, Franz Hopper, die!" while holding a screaming Aelita in his arms.

He felt so much as the bad guy, now...

And Aelita slaps him in the face, saying she doesn't want to see him ever again...

What a relief, it is not reality. But, Jeremie feels as if it is...

Cause he was so eager to stop XANA that he didn't take the safe path

and decided to try his plan without cutting the power in XANA last activated tower.

That was stupid! If he had chosen to do as he did not,

XANA would not have been able to counter them, even a little...

And Franz Hopper would not have sacrificed himself, in front of Aelita...

And to cover his own misjudgment.

His sweetheart was heartbroken and it was his fault.

He wants to apologize to her, even if she says she understands his choice,

she's lying to herself... And so is he...

And so he goes knocking to her room door. She is not answering...

But it is open. So he goes in... Only to find she is not here...

Too bad...

Before going back, he see a post-it on her laptop...

Wait a minute, since when does she has a laptop of her own ?

Whatever, it says : "going back soon. Gone for a walk on Lyoko."

Not very informative...

But there is the delivering cardboard-box with another post-it on it telling :

To Jeremie, We are on a small archipelago. If you want to come, think about who is XANA.

from : Franz Hopper"

Jeremie transition card

Aelita was a little worried about the others, because they may worry if she was absent for too long. But her dad had said to her he left a note for them to know where she is.

Xana has explained most of what happened back when they shut themselves in Lyoko.

And her dad had filled the remaining holes. So it apparently went like :

Franz Hopper was a computer scientist working for the defence minister.

His task was to create a powerful antivirus so as to handle numerical threats directed toward the army or the national security.

To test his projects he also used results from previous studies,
in order to create an artificial world, where

experimentation could take place.
In the end, the virtual universe should also be used
for low danger military trainings.

XANA was the antivirus. But it kind of mutated
somehow.

Herself think it's from incorporating data from
viruses,
without a finalized critical sense to judge their
objective.

At that time, she, Aelita was a little girl, unaware of
things.

And her mother was waiting for her brother.

To offer them a vacation from their forced isolation,
her dad had prepared a travel to Lyoko for all of
them....

But, it turned badly, as her mother was incorporated
by a now crazy XANA.

And they had to cancel everything.

To make things worse, XANA hunted them down,
"driven by the desire from mum to join them again".

Attacked by XANA's specters, Dad locked us into the
Towers of Lyoko, then when I was safe,
he tried to reason the entity and kind of settled it by
putting the computer in a stasis.

It seems XANA entered the stasis later. Not doing so
before my brother came into the world.

Then it was a deep sleep for everyone,
when XANA kind of reached a stable state with two
people living into her.

Jeremie only awoke us all. But, dad's hopes that a fully
prepared team would be our allies...

Ended not being fulfilled... Not at all... And then started our long secret war...

Aelita was lost in thought when suddenly she realized that her outfit was not the one she usually wears on Lyoko.

She was wearing a pair of cotton trousers with a kind of robe-shirt top...

Everything was purple or magenta. And there were no earring in this 3d model!

So she asked : "Why there were a jewel in my Lyoko model, in the first place?".

The answer was from Xana : The jewel was the incrustation from Xana into her. So her ear was healed out of the item when Xana recovered her senses.

Yes, that means "I'm free!" for Aelita.

She, then thought that this jewel was so close to them they did not even notice it could be Xana's leftovers in her. It was so simple, however... and it was the end anyway.

For the conflict with Xana, that is.

While discussing all of this, they were going to the temple atop the mountain, to get the elemental sphere, so Xana could finally part from Aelita's family.

Jeremie, Odd and Ulrich were holding a council of war.

Gathered in Odd and Ulrich's room, they were discussing of Aelita departure, for some unknown location in the digital sea or so they concluded it was...

Yumi just knock at the door.

It's a Saturday morning, so she is not usually in Cadic, more at ease at home...

Relaxing with parent and brother. Nice having a home when you attend school !

Whatever, Aelita was missing, and it seems Franz Hopper had a hand in this...

Which was the main point they did not get at all...

They agreed on continuing this meeting at the factory, to investigate.

There, the computer did not have the 3d model for Aelita, anymore...

There were only a earring left and some basic model for pink hair...

Seems there were a note attached to the jewel model :

You did not thought about it at all? Not even once? That the earring was XANA's link to her!

You should take care better of the people you care for, isn't it ?

Anyway, I suggest you keep this item in quarantine, because it's still a potential virus.

Indeed, if destroyed, it could spread seeds all over the PC.

Take a look at the hair if you feel remorseful enough.

"Seems like Franz Hopper is mad at you, Jeremie!"

"Odd, Please! That is ..." But, Jeremie abruptly stops and take his glasses away for a moment, to think about everything :

The redesigning he made for power enhancing... The materialization on earth...

He had so many occasions to notice the jewel and he don't

even though a second about its role, importance and...

"I'm careless. That is, I'm careless! CARELESS!" **sob**
sob

"Well, it is our duty to press onward, right ? Need to go save her if she need help."

"Yumi, I'm not even certain she needs help right now!"

Jeremie was right, she was not in need of help, *right now*.
But she would need the help, *in the future*...

Yumi transition card

[Aelita] : I don't really get it. What are our powers in this world ?

[F.H.] It is a combination of 0 to 4 of 4 elements : Fire, Water, Earth and Wind

[XANA] You are aligned with wind and fire or water, i don't really know.

I think it's water but you are a little close to fire.

Let me concentrate... Yes, you're mainly aligned with wind then water and, after then, with fire...

[F.H.] Here we are, the sanctuary.

What we are looking for is the element spheres that will let us reactivate this little world.

Then, with the world fully living, we will be able to get some ressources

and we can then make Xana independent from mum and myself...

[Aelita] Sorry, dad, but I don't remember her name... from before Lyoko...

[F.H.] Your mum's name. Yes, it is Cecile, Cecile Harvest, the best woman I ever met...

[Xana] But, where is her brother Felix ? He should have waited just outside... I don't get it!

[Mysterious Voice] Well, I'm here, instead! Bad luck for you, I'm not your ally!...

"Well, I get it now. Her Model was based on her real self. But XANA corrupted it in some way...

So her hair and the earring is from XANA's influence.

While the hair is just some random corruption of the original. The jewel served as a bind to hold her into its influence."

"Ok, Einstein. So that's how we weren't able to free her from the Virus..."

"Right, Odd. But it seems that Franz Hopper is allied with XANA somehow.

Because he never hinted to me this detail, even if it is obvious to him. So maybe he needs XANA to survive."

"But, why then?" Ulrich was at a loss.

XANA bound Aelita with the jewel but Franz hopper let it somehow be so that XANA survive.

Then, he could have told them. So, why did he not ?

It could be because XANA was still usefull for fighting other viruses.

But, then he could have told everything.

Or XANA had an hostage ? An ostage ! YES :

"This time, I get something : XANA is holding Franz Hopper's wife hostage !"

"Sorry, I don't get the point, here..."

And, exceptionally, it was Ulrich who was explaining things !

"Ok, Odd, think about it : XANA is a virus antivirus that kind of turned badly, as we know.

So it's usefull against other computer viruses. But, as it is faulty, it should have been destroyed. But it was not.

So he must still hold something valuable to avoid that.

As Aelita and her father were free before sheltering in Lyoko, I guess it's Aelita's mother."

Jeremie now realized it was a good hypothesis :

"So he realized we would have to deal with a cruel dilemma and avoided to tell us about it.

Now XANA should be incapacited, so Aelita's mum should be free. So why...

Oh! Yes cause she is still trapped in XANA's remains!"

[Yumi] "Let's look at the hair, shall we ?"

[All] "Agreed !"

[Myst. Voice.] I'm X.A.N.A., didn't you got it ?

[Aelita] We got it, Monster.

[X.A.N.A.] Little "Stone" you were so in love with the GEEKy guy... Are you mad at him, now ?

[Xana] Why should she be ? Nobody was hurt in the end!

[X.A.N.A.] Well, he kind of... didn't care about your father... no ?

[Aelita] Are you here to talk us into despair ? Because you're kind of nothing more than a voice now!

[X.A.N.A.] Sassy !?... Well, I found a nice ally in the person of this world antivirus...

And we agreed on the fact you are a nuisance and should be eradicated....

And I have virtualised some reinforcement you know and love a lot...

Ulrich transition card

The hair had a note that read :

Sorry for being rude to you, Jeremie Belepois. But you are not the smartest one, sometimes.

However you may be interested in knowing that, Aelita, Xana nice part and I, are in an Island called "Way Hard", which is some artificial world like Lyoko, only a little more socialized and nice looking.

We are trying to restore the full functioning of it, so we can access the necessary ressources,
for Xana to part from my wife and what remains of myself and my son in Xana's code and essence.

I know you will think XANA will use the ressource to grow stronger but you would then be mistaken,
because XANA split in two, thanks to your actions.

Xana is the good part with the initial code and my family mixed into,
while X.A.N.A. is what remains of her corruption.

The point is that your help would be appreciated if X.A.N.A. become a threat to our objectives.
Regardless that you think our objectives are good or not.

Franz Hopper and Xana

"As he said, X.A.N.A. could use the ressources to grow stronger but..." Jeremie takes a breath..

"We have to trust in them and go to hep them! So....
EVERYONE TO THE SCANNERS!"

Usual music start playing

What a nice morning it was.

Sisi awake from a dream where she was at a nice café with Ulrich while Yumi was on her knees,
praying an indifferent Ulrich to forget about her going out with William.

William is a nice guy but he has been weird for some time now...

Even this little green sidekick of her was better, due to this weirdness.

In reality, she knew Ulrich was going out with Yumi. And she though she should find herself a real boyfriend.

For the moment only "greeny" and Wiliam were nice choices

...

Except Wiliam was still a little crazy... (The weirdness, again...)

and "greeny" seemed like a weak boy to anyone seeing him for the first time...

Thinking about futile things while brushing teeth was nice...
But suddenly her ears started tingling... so she decided to take the jewels she had just put...
Never heard of earrings causing headache... Will ask dad about it...

But, it caused her to be like drunk or something... And she collapsed on the bed...

Two sidekicks waiting their leader
Two girls preparing a newspaper
They met near the soda machines
But while they are buyin'
Comes some dark specters
that knock them to scanners
And off they go
Into Lyoko

Sisi woke up into some random room...

It seems like she is considered to be a goddess fallen from the sky.
But, She then find, in her pocket, some letter telling her :
She is a replacement for the real prisoner that should have been handed over.

So she must wait, trying to remember what happened to her...

2. You wake up in a room...

Elisabeth ("Sisi") awakes in a room.

It looks like a castle room, the kind of palace that is made from high quality marble.

Sisi feel like, the first thing to do, is to check up and see if she is fine.

She manage to have a general look at herself thanks to her reflect in a window.

...

Yes, from the look of it, she is fine.

However, she is now only wearing a quite simple magenta-purple dress and top ensemble.

Hmm... Also, her make-up, jewelry and hair-band are nowhere to be found...

It has been a while since she spent the day without make-up. So, why not ?

However, her hair is now loose, and, she can see her streaks of lighter hair again...

Is she dreaming that she is a trapped princess ?

Should she pinch herself to check ?

...

No, this would be silly, she knows she is awake.

So, Elisabeth sits back on the bed. (It is a really comfy bed, still.)

She guesses that, for a start, she should review the events that she remembers :

She was getting ready to go out of her dorm room.

Then, her ears where tingling and ringing...
And, promptly, she felt her body shaking and going numb.

...

Thinking again... Isn't it what happens when you pass out from some shock ?

[...]

Elisabeth ("Sisi") was half at a loss, half relieved.
How could she receive a shock ? And who brought her here afterwards ?

Basically : What is going on here ?

Suddenly, the doors opens.
There, in the entrance, is a blonde girl clumsily carrying a plate of food.

...

The girl's face look oddly familiar.

So, as the service-girl is putting down the plate on a small table, it downs on Elisabeth :
This girl looks like Aelita Stones! Although she must have stopped dying her hair pink.

...

If it is really "Miss Einstein", then she made a good fashion choice, for once :
Her natural(?) hair colour, as well as the slicker hair, make her look less nerdy.

[Sisi] : Ae... Aelita ?

[Aelita] : Yes? ... I guess you are expecting some explanation...

[Sisi] : You bet! Spill. ALL. The beans, Bowl-cut!

Then, "Aelita Schaeffer" explained, in details, the whole deal about her, XANA and Lyoko.

How they have spent month countering XANA's attacks while hiding everything to everyone.

Sisi was more understanding than Aelita was expecting.

Also, she genuinely felt pity for William...

Not so much for Jeremie or Odd, though...

[Sisi] : So, the 5 of you were having your own "secret group of digital adventurers"...

Wait! ... But, does it means, you're as old as Jeremie's grandma or something ?!

Aelita was surprised, at first...

She hadn't really thought about it, this way, before.

[Aelita] : I guess ... It is the same thing as for Cryonics.

As long as I was in stasis, I haven't really grown or aged.

[Sisi] It makes sense...

But, what are we actually doing here ? And, where are we ?

Is here, the Lyoko world you spoke of ?

[Aelita] Actually, it is another virtual world, on another server computer.

Lyoko is handling a wilderness framework, while, here, civilization programs are running.

[Sisi] : O-Kay... And, well, what are the other four geeks doing, now ?

[Aelita] : ... Chasing after me ...

[Sisi] : *Pardon ?*

[Aelita] : Hum... You see... I came to this world with Dad and a reformed Xana...

We were planning on restoring this world's program to use its computer full resources.

This way, we could use these resources to, ultimately, break free from our link with XANA.

[Sisi] : So... You are still slightly linked with the "XANA" virus.

[Aelita] : Yes, the same is true for Dad and, of course, Mum, that is still inside Xana.

[Sisi] : So, why am I here ? And why are you chased by your friends ?

Shouldn't you all be trying to break you free from the virus ?!

[Aelita] : XANA is running two processes.

[Sisi] : Which means ?

[Aelita] : Something like split personality, if you want.

Reformed Xana is actually the process whose core was built around Mum's mind.

We were surprised the second process was still running, hidden.

...

And, just before we should retrieve the RAM-chips to start our plan, well...

The selfish X.A.N.A. process took over XANA.

[Sisi] : And, selfish XANA want nothing more than drive anyone out of the game, is it ?

[Aelita] : Yes, this X.A.N.A. want to seize this computer power, to be back in action.

[Aelita] : But...

[Sisi] : If you don't reactivate this world, your Mum is trapped forever.

[Aelita] : Yes...

Jeremie transition card

Meanwhile, "somewhere else"(read:"in the room just below the one Sisi and Aelita are in")
in the Palace of Toolbox, Jeremie's party of 4 were being tricked.

The leader of Toolbox, Todler, had offered his help to chase after the XANA-lead party.

To seal the deal, Ulrich had to take part in the Coliseum.

In short, Ulrich had to race and battle against professional warriors.

It seems like Todler wanted to watch them use their digital-powers.

Todler was trying to prevent himself from being terminated after his processing time was over.

He had "gotten"(read:"stolen") some add-on substance, from a mystical Island.

But, now he has not much left of it, and need people to get more, for him.

Todler even resorted to "invite"(read:"kidnap") a deity-like

girl from Lavera.

This, in order to coerce the people of Laverro, into building a lighthouse of his own design,
so that his ships could reach the promised island, at the centre of the sea.

The people of Lavera had gotten some help from XANA, in the shape of a Sisi-Scapegoat.

A few of XANA's numerical spectres had been tasked with bringing Elizabeth to this world.

They found her brushing her teeth, then promptly zapped her unconscious.

Sisi may have felt some unpleasant side effects from the bunch of electrical arcs...

But, hey, it was nothing compared to her needed presence, for the Plan.

She should feel honoured. At least, Sisi was not meant to be some disposable red-shirt,
like her sidekicks (Hervé and Nicolas) or the two "journalists" (Milly and Tamiya).

The plan was in motion, Franz Hopper was, reluctantly but willingly, following it along.

Aelita was trusting her Dad. Felix could only follow the lead of his sister and father...

Everything was fine for XANA.

Also, if it was lucky, its two remaining red-shirts (Hervé and Milly) would succeed, at *devirtualising, for good* these four pests that have been bothering it, for too long.

3. Princess Sisi & Aelita: Battle Angel

Summary for the Chapter:

So, the two girls were now comfortably seated in the Coliseum of Toolbox.

Not a word was spoken as they pretended to enjoy the gladiator challenges.

Quite some time had passed since Sisi and Aelita met. And, now was the time to carry out the plan they discussed, back then.

OK, Elisabeth had digested most of Aelita's exposition.

Clearly, some details were still escaping her.

But, in short: Ms Einstein was running forward, with her usual cohort in toe.

And, right now, they had to find a way to break free from Todler's grasp.

[Aelita] Don't worry, Sisi, we have a plan.

The plan was quite simple, even though Sisi had to stay strong, regarding the fact:

XANA had turned Hervé and Nicolas (also Tamiya and Milly) into puppets for its plans.

And, as of now, Hervé and Milly were still under mind control.

[Sisi] : And, we can't smash this XANA witch...

[Aelita] : Yes, sorry.

...

Aelita explained XANA's plan to free Sisi :

0) Aelita enrolls as Sisi personal maid (*with help of a bit of data manipulation*).

1) While they are forced to watch the gladiator challenges, Hervé and Milly are going to pretend being messengers from Todler.

2) The two puppets will show up with a (*fake*) order, from Todler, asking the soldiers guarding Sisi (and the maid with her) to hurry and escort their guest(*read: hostage*) all the way to Lavera.

3) While the two girls are escorted, the puppets will ambush and knock-out the guards, letting Sisi and Aelita run for it and escape Todler's grasp.

Luckily, Sisi and Aelita had accepted to wear those purple veils, offered by Todler.

So, in the hood, and from afar, Ulrich (*and the others*) could not recognize them.

Yes, the kidnapper had registered Aelita's friend into the events...

Why?

Unless...

He wants to show off his powers to his hostage!

Yes, as Aelita, the Lyoko warriors had digital-elemental-powers, in this world.

So, Todler would have tricked them into showcasing those in his event.

But, obviously, the 4 of them had not carried a thorough investigation.

So fixated on getting Aelita back, they would not pay much attention to the world around.

So, Ulrich was showcasing his abilities : Running, jumping, sweating...

Elisabeth was a little swoon over by the display...

Why and how could Yumi hold him for herself ?

Also, Yumi was rigging the challenges for him...

Wait! The other 3... They were in attendance and focused on cheating out Ulrich's victory!

Sisi gave a look at Aelita. Aelita nodded.

Yes. The 4 Lyoko warrior would, definitely, have paid no mind to their presence,

even without those concealing veils.

...What a bunch of ragamuffins...

Sisi transition card**[/b]**

Ulrich was doing his best.

After all, getting Aelita back was at stake.

Yes they were cheating, but, they *had* to win.

Todler had promised to do anything in his powers to help them get back at XANA,
if they could prove their worth in this gladiator event.

It was never stated that they had to win.
But, they thought that winning was a definitely best way to secure the help of Toolbox's ruler.

So, as they had done so many time already, in this world,
Ulrich was pushing around logs,
making his ways through puzzles of water and vines...

Each round a little more challenging.

Ulrich was only focused on the challenges and the duels at the end of each round.

He didn't even glance once at the excited audience.
For him, the audience had no interest. They were basic-artificial-life programs,
only able to enjoy the simple thrills this world had to offer.

They had no time to connect with the people around, if they wanted to catch back to XANA,
and free Aelita from its influence, once and for all.

While Ulrich was playing his part, Jeremie was tasked to freeze puddles and douse crates,
all along Ulrich's course, from the audience's front rows.

He, too, was not looking at the audience, trying to have them not notice him or his cheating.

...Yes, "cheating"! But, Aelita was worth tweaking the rules a little.

Yumi and Odd were doing as Jeremie, just with a more "friendship" *angle* toward Aelita.

Odd transition card

That's it, mindless-Hervé was right aside Sisi.

She had tried very hard to be prepared for the shock of this view.

But you can't really stomach, completely, any shock, however...

No glasses, eyes looking in vagueness... Stoic demeanour... It wasn't him.

Even for Milly. She thought she would not care, but she did.

Oh, she did... And, it may even be worse as she made no preparations at all, for her.

Sisi turned toward Aelita, trying to find some strength from her comrade, but...

Yes, Ms Einstein was also deeply unsettled.

...*"Keep collected"..."Keep collected"..."keep collected"...*

It made no sense, but Sisi needed to repeat this mantra to keep from losing composure.

[...]

The girls were now instructed to stand and follow along the soldiers that were guarding them.
The soldiers had read and believed the (*well crafted by Xana*) fake order.

"We have orders from Lord Todler."
No, Lis., don't think about Hervé's robotic tone. Don't even think a bit about it!

Hervé and Milly were going along with them.
It was fine while they were still in the dark corridors of the Coliseum,
but now, Aelita and Elisabeth could see tears forming around Milly's eyes.

Both "puppets" were constantly trying to escape the mind control.
XANA had said their mind was asleep and they would have no memories or issues from this,
but, their numerical bodies still were strained by the process.

[...]

Silently, they crossed the bridge, to the continent in the south.

Now, they were no more into proper Todler's territory.

And, so, once the bridge was no more in sight, the knock-out started :

First, Hervé *smashed* the heads of two guards into each other.

Hearing the sound, the others turned around, leaving Milly, on the other side of the convoy, free to *smash two more* heads into each other.

Now, the two remaining guards were at a loss, so it was easy, for the two "puppets", to just *punch them out* of commission.

Now, Sisi and Aelita were still a tad shocked and stuck on place.

"Hurry up! Go to the desert entrance. Now!"

This robotic tone brought the two girls to their senses.

Sisi and Aelita ran for it.

Aelita transition card

Xana, Felix and Franz Hopper were waiting by the desert entrance.

They saw the two girls running toward them.
Everything was going smoothly.

When Elisabeth and Aelita reached the three of them, Sisi was quite out of breath.

"That will take some getting used to..."
Great. this gravure blue guy had the same robotic tone.

XANA was only *playfully teasing* Sisi, and reverted to its regular voice.

[XANA] Ms Delmas, you will have to get in shape, along this journey.
But, do not worry, it will all come in due time.

Felix made a step forward... But, took two steps back, right away.

[F.H.] So, yes! We are taking a short break, alright?
Then, we cross this desert and follow the path to Lavera.

[XANA] Really short break.
It's not going to be long before Todler notice something is amiss.

And, it would be better if we ignited the Earth tower before the 4 pests catch up to us.

Sisi wondered about how she could hold-up, in battle with the 4 Lyoko Warriors, as she had no experience at all.

So, Xana took this opportunity to explain to her (*and to remind all the others*) that:

They should not battle before the second tower (*Earth*) is activated, anyway.

Indeed, until two towers are activated, any one of them that is downed in battle, is going to be de-virtualised and could only come back after this server is no more.

In short :

"This world needs to be more stable before you risk yourself into battle."

And, with this sentence, XANA decided that the break was over.

After all, while they were catching their breath and having some water to drink, the puppets had dutifully carried the guards to the town, a few feet north, and the two were now joining back the group.

The battle plan was for the puppets to smash the random encounters away, with Xana healing them as needed, along the way.

Notes for the Chapter:

Back to this fic after quite some tinkering with how to tell it.

(I mean, the (pilot) Chapter 2 dates back to 26th July 2018...

and I'm writing this the 12th January 2020...)

Here, I'm trying out writing with "more verbose" and more emotional.

But, let's say I'm not having a definitive tone or style for this storytelling.

To be honest, as many story elements are, here, derivative from GS,

it makes more sense to emphasis on feelings and on added concepts.

(Also : Get used to "GS" as an abbreviation for "Golden Sun")

Cultural delirium :

"Sisi" still makes me think about an old cartoon called **"Princess Sisi"**

(Telling the romanced story of Empress Elisabeth of Austria)

--love-hated that program, with still some memories of it around my mind--

And, I recently learned about a movie called **"Alita: Battle Angel"**,

an adaptation of the manga "**Gunm**".

I remember reading some chapters of Gunm, at my local library, years ago.

Gunm is somewhat strange and slightly disturbing.

(That's why I haven't read it in its entirety. Too much for me, I guess.)

However, I have some notions about the story and may check the movie at some time.

And "*Alita*" sounds quite close to "*Aelita*", so, right away, in my mind :

url to this picture :

<https://i.servimg.com/u/f20/16/97/75/61/aelita10.png>

So, if I modded TLA to have the content of this fic, I would probably :

Give Sheba/Aelita access to a line/class referencing Alita or its manga counterpart.

(Meaning psynergies based on her abilities and probably a Mars+Venus line, having, definitely, a variation of Dulahan's fulminius edge.)

Maybe, by editing the pierrot class, granted by the mysterious card ?

I think I may consider the same thing for Jenna/Sisi and make a line of Princess-Empress.

Again, maybe by editing a class granted by an item (the Tomegathericon ?)

So yes, you can expect me to add reference to the wide

range of things,
Code Lyoko has links with, even if it's far-fetched, by my
modest but prolific mind.

In the end. Remember :

This fanfic is very experimental and slightly improvised.
Also, as it is more of a Code Lyoko derivative story than a
GS derivative one,
the focus will be a lot more on the character's growth
than on the story.

4. Prologue to freedom

Sisi was getting into the swing of things, quite swiftly, even by her own standards.

Hervé and Milly being zombies... She got to the point where she could tolerate it.

And, this whole rhythm, to cross the desert, also started being second nature.

Xana was stating that all of this was already in the programming of their avatars.

And, turning to Franz Hopper, the old man was nodding in agreement.

So, this was it :

Hervé and Milly would stand in front and strike down, diligently, any foe, from these big lizards to these bizarre living maces-of-sort.

At time, little tornadoes would bar the way.

Then, Xana would have some water drop on them, revealing bigger-body-builder-lizards.

Because, yes, in here, tornadoes were created by boy-builder guardian lizards.

Go figure...

Anyway, those were a tad tougher to crush down, but H&M managed, requiring more healing afterward, tough.

There was some chests on the side of their paths,
but Xana "advised not to" (read: "forbade to") divert their
course to get them.

[Sisi] : Isn't it what the Role-Pretending-Games are about ?
Collecting chests ?

[XANA] : Absolutely, Miss Delmas. But, we can't play by the
rules, for now.

Aelita was gesturing about not questioning the plan... Or
something.

And her brother was nodding to it, along with Franz Hopper.

[XANA] : They are right, each second is precious.

Gear is meaningless as long as we don't make sure your
existences are secure.

...And, leaving the gear to our pursuers should have them
waste a bit more time.

Ulrich transition card

The Lyoko Warriors had been victorious, in the Coliseum
trials.

As such, Todler was granting them their ~~well-deserved~~ prize:
A ridiculous nightcap that attract wild creatures.

[Odd] : Really ? How can it be useful ? Battling is fun, but...

[Todler] : Rest easy, I obviously don't want to send you to
your death.

Yet, if your foes are that powerful, getting more experience
as you pursue them-

[Jeremie] : Means greater odds of standing above them.
Makes sense.

[Yumi] : All right. But, how can you help us beside that ?

[Todler] : Ah, young girl, indeed... I know where your foes are headed,
as they seems to have captured a guest of us, from Lavera,
probably to force her compatriots into their bindings.

Todler's assistant added :
"It would appear that kidnapping is a go-to way to get what one wants, nowadays."

[Todler] : ... Thanks for your input, Damien, you can go now.
[Assistant Damien] : Ruler. *bows then leaves*

[Jeremie] : Well, I'm not that surprised that they would do it again.
After all, It all started as they kidnapped our friend, so...

Sisi transition card

They were finally out of this desecrating desert.

Strange, as Sisi didn't feel that much tired, even after dashing over most of the sandy path.

...

Probable it was, again, a base ability, provided by this avatar.

[Sisi] : So, where are we running to, now ?

[Xana] : We need to check the earth tower a bit East of here.
If I'm not mistaken, we will have to-
I will tell you in due time.

Xana seemed to struggle with its composure.
What did Miss ~~Einstein~~ Curie(?) said again ?
Yes, there was a kind side trapped in Xana, with her mum at its side.

...

Seems like this kind side was making a bit of a breakthrough.

...

Also, what about this bit of knowledge she felt right now ?

Asking Aelita about it...

She says, it is probably knowledge she already had.
She, herself had found it easier to recollect memories and learned topics.

...

Hopper adds that this world was not meant to replicate cognition perfectly.

And, as such, "the avatar would not be bound about accessing their memory mainframe".

Hmm... Hum...

So, the old man knew quite a bit about here.
Hopper was willing to elaborate, but Xana would hush him into keeping some secrets, for now.

And, anyway, they had reached a gate, in the passage through these hills.

Xana instructed Aelita to go talk, to the couple of guards, alone, at first.

Maybe they would let a single, unremarkable, young girl, pass through.

Sisi was a by wary : What kind of appeal was it trying to invoke ?

And, then, what about the rest of them ?

The guards wouldn't just let them pass just because they are lost into the Miss's wet eyes...

Xana was laughing at Sisi's confusion.

Wait... Laughing ? This guy ?

Apparently, a mix of its pride and the kindness of its leaking trapped part would do that.

Xana was now giving instructions to the zombies.

Now, Sisi could only take cover and watch over, from afar, as the plan got into motion, with only Aelita entering the guards' line of sight.

Aelita climbed the stairs, to reach the guards and started pleading for the right to pass.

The guards looked embarrassed :

They couldn't let the kid go through without authorisation.

Yet, the shy girl appeared so vulnerable...

Hence, they agreed to unlock the gate for her, only for a minute.

So, for no more than a moment, they turned their back, to unbar the doors.

At this very instant, the zombies dashed-up behind the guards' backs, like shadows.

And, as soon as the doors would let one pass, the two guards earned good knock-outs for their trouble.

[Xana] : And, so, as expected, we succeed, without having to use too much muscle.

Watch and learn little Miss Delmas.

[Sisi] : *frowns*

Aelita transition card

Aelita knew what Xana had in its mind, without the need to ask anything more.

Since it had taken the reins of their quest, at the solar sanctuary, she learned to read it.

Moreover, the influence of her mum and of its altruistic process had grown more and more.

And, as such, fusing with its rogue process had been a high risk gambit.

Anyway, the weakness of this planned trick was to avoid the guards getting defensive.

Aelita had to look the most distressed and lost, for them to get caught in the ruse.

So, as she clumsily climbed the steps, she would look

around, in the vagueness and teary eyed.

The guards called her with a :
"Kiddo, is something bothering you ?"

She sobbed out "the others... They let me in the desert... I wanna go home."

[West Guard] : Home ? Are you from Alegria town ?

[Aelita] : Yes... Which way is it ? ... *sobs* I want my dad and mum... *sniffle*

[East Guard] : Sorry, little girl, but you are on the wrong way.
[West Guard] : Saliary ! Have some pity ! Can't you see she's disheartened !?

[East Guard] : Oh, Moss... Why do you care... We can't help her home.

[West Guard] : But, we can let her get the care she deserve.
At least, let her rest in the dispensary outpost for a while.

[East Guard] : ...Fine. You win. After all, then, the priest will take all the responsibility.

And, ultimately, Moss go to the lost girl and help her get to the gate,
by gently holding her by the arm and by walking at her tired pace.

Moss :

Behind these doors is a little house with a man that can take care of you.

Rest some time there. then, we will see about escorting you back to Alegria.

["The lost girl"] : *sniffle* Thanks mister. *weeps eyes with her forearm*

[Moss] : *flushed* It's nothing.
It's our job to take care of what goes around here.

Now, as the two guards are busy unlocking the gate, the bashful girl looks down, knowing quite well what is coming and not really wanting to watch it unfold :

The two guards being, emotionlessly, knocked down, by Hervé and Milly.

[Moss] : ...Wh-Why ? ...

[Aelita] : I'm... I'm sorry. *A single pair of tears rains down her cheeks.*

Jeremie transition card

The Lyoko warriors (with Odd wearing the luring nightcap) reaches Alegria town.

Todler had said to ask for advice about the desert, south, at the town next to it.

From what they knew, one had to carry water to reach Lavera through this desert, as freak tornadoes always send travellers back to Alegria.

The only alternative being to wait until night-time,
as the creature creating the tornadoes would sleep for some
time, in the middle of the night.

But, there was no time to waste if they wanted to stay on
track of their targets.

After all, the Coliseum demonstration started in the early
morning.

And, as such, Xana would have been actively high tailing
them for half a day, already.

They could not make it be a whole day worth.

Apart from the water, the townspeople would warn them
about the raging maces,
that try to bring down intruders, even if it's at their own
expenses.

So, nothing to do other than walk head on into this desert.
Jeremie could conjure water, using a chip they collected
earlier.

Being confident in their goals, they couldn't lose into battle.

Felix transition card

Felix silently climbed the stairs along everyone else.

His older sister stayed crouched beside the unconscious
guard that had acted kindly,

making sure he and his colleague were still breathing and safe to be left on their own.

The two zombies answering to Xana were, them, just standing still, holding the doors open.

Xana still checked the guards processes, nodding about them still running in the background.

Hervé and Milly had acted properly, as expected :

The guards were not much more out of it than if they had been sleeping.

However, it came with the drawback that they would rise back up, in only a few minutes, not leaving the group too much time before the alarm is rang out.

Felix had to learn and stand for the others, his sister on the front line.

After all, being isolated for most of his life and only communicating with his mother, acting around a group of other sentient beings was quite novel to him.

Nonetheless, empathy and goodness are natural human traits

and, as such, Felix could feel that Xana's action were bogus at best.

Ultimately, Felix had decided :

Whatever happens, he would, *at least*, give it all, for Aelita's safety.

Notes for the Chapter:

Agreed, I said the fic would mostly be an extensive GS2 retelling.

And I am still dragging on the GS1 end-segment.

However, I noticed the emotional exploration that this point of view offered.

Thus, it would be a waste to discard it.

Furthermore, I feel like peppering flashbacks when relevant.

Actually, this may be the fine rhythm for this fic :

Telling the story, following the heart and mind processes of the characters,

that should mostly iterate along the natural flow of time,

yet may go through little tinny bubbles, that pop through the timeline.

Just like coding programs, it will be about making sure that it builds properly.

So, not making crazy promises, only providing sensible guidelines.

Then, fairly slowly, but surely, by batches of little increments...

One gets to be amazed by the process since inception to completion.

Author's Note:

It took a long time before I decided to publish this fic.

First because the audience for this fic should ideally be

fans of Code Lyoko AND Golden Sun.

(Golden sun fans are not that common...

and would Code Lyoko fans may be that interested in a mash-up with a game, they may or not know ? ...)

Second is : Should I write this in English or French ?

Indeed :

French is more in the spirit of Code Lyoko original language and cultural background...

But English is read by more Golden Sun fans... So...

I finally opted for English, because it seems that Code Lyoko had been broadcast in English...

And, well... Lot of things are in English out there on the net...

Third is I hope it's not too crazy for Code Lyoko fans.

(Golden sun fans should not be too disturbed as there is a lot of crazy ideas...

floating in this fandom... that are crazier than things in here, maybe...)

Now onto my motivations :

The four character party, the slightly mysterious scientist advisor, the similar character traits...

All of this motivated my idea.

For golden sun readers :

The main characters, mirroring TLA's starting party are dual aligned characters :

- **Aelita : water wind**

Aelita looks, in the cartoon, quite exactly like Sheba with Jenna's palette of colors...

Her personality is also something along Sheba's with a little of Jenna's...

So I gave her, as initial weapon, a brace that grants her additional fire power...

and a battle unleash not unlike her attack in the

cartoon :

a fireball that is a fire version of star magician's mine ball

In this story, Aelita start as the Jenna to latter shift to a more Sheba role...

- Aelita's brother "**Felix**" : earth fire
(OC fever kitta! **runs around screaming**)
An "original" character for Code Lyoko. He is born in the digital world,
some years before when the cartoon start...
He is based on GS's Felix.
- **Sisi** : fire wind
The annoying (?) kinda spoiled child but with slight character development...
You can see her as a slightly *hautaine* version of Jenna...
Leading to her being Jenna with a hint of Sheba...
With her look being also close to Jenna's.
- **William** : water earth
William is the Code Lyoko character you either love or hate.
Do he have good qualities or is he a failure : you decide !
He will be our Piers/*Picard* (adding this name just to be safe...)

Also...

Code Lyoko's part-bittersweet/part-open ending might feel right to some GS fans.

(Yeah! ~~Watch~~ Read me turn bittersweet into full fledged sugar, guys!)

Oh, yes, I'm still on my usual tropes and concepts in this story...

So, don't be surprised if some elements feel familiar with ones in my other fics...

(But you may not have read any of them, so it's brand new, in this case!)